carbonaceous fuel. An estimate of coal reserves lost due to these unapproachable fires is very difficult. However, in respect of Jharia Coalfield fires which have the majority of such fires, a study made a few years ago could very roughly estimate that coal reserves to the extent of about 37 million tonnes have been damaged in these fires.

(c) The main problems arising of these shallow fires exist in Jharia Coalfield of Dhanbad District in Bihar where twenty two fire projects to deal with such fires at an estimated cost of Rupees 114.57 crores are under various stages of implementation. With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires, a diagnostic study under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project, assisted by World Bank, has been completed in June, 1996. Action on preparation of final report has been initiated by the consultant engaged for the purpose.

[English]

Credit Card Facility

*330. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the nationalised banks that have provided credit care facilities to their customers;

(b) whether these banks have gone under losses on account of defaults on the part of the credit card holders;

(c) if so, the accumulated amount of defaults on this account as on date, bank-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The following nationalised banks have issued credit cards on their own or in collaboration with other banks :

1. Bank of Baroda
2. Indian Overseas Bank
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Allahabad Bank
5. Canara Bank
6. Corporation Bank
7. Vijaya Bank
8. Punjab & Sind Bank
9. Central Bank of India
10. Bank of India
11. Bank of Maharashtra
12. United Bank of India
13. Union Bank of India
14. Syndicate Bank
15. Oriental Bank of Commerce
16. Dena Bank

(b) and (c). As per the information available with Reserve Bank of India the following nationalised banks have reported write off of losses on account of defaults on credit cards during the last 3 years :

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Bank	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Syndicate Bank	0.41	Nil	Nil
2.	Union Bank of India	Nil	Nil	0.01
3.	Bank of India	Nil	3.12	Nil
4.	Vijaya Bank	Nil	0.02	12.94
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Nil	Nil	0.36
6.	Bank of Baroda	Nil	0.23	4.45
7.	Andhra Pradesh	1.06	3.82	9.71
8.	Canara Bank	1.75	10.69	16.86

(d) The banks have taken a series of steps such as hotlisting the credit cards of the defaulters, denying renewal of cards, following up by personal visits, issue of legal notices and filing suits against defaulters, etc. for recovery of the overdues. Banks are issuing credit cards only on selective basis, after satisfying themselves about the credentials of the potential cardholder.

Currency Printing Press, Mysore

*331. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Currency Printing Press at Mysore has started functioning;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the total amount spent for the establishment of the above Press;

(d) the number of employees working in the above Press;

(e) whether the Government propose to give perference in employment to those persons who have given their lands and the local people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since June 1, 1996.

(c) Rs. 228 crores (approx.) at the end of May, 1996.

(d) 234 at the end of June, 1996.

(e) and (f). In the matter of recruitment of staff, Government of India guidelines are being followed.

Seizure of Gold at Indira Gandhi International Airport

*332. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of gold biscuits concealed in the dryice compartment of food-trolley were seized from a Frankfurt-Delhi Lufthansa flight at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi on July 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of gold seized at Indira Gandhi International Airport during each of the last three years and the value thereof;

(d) the details of the persons arrested in this regard; and

(e) the present status of the prosecutions launched against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The Customs authorities at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi seized 184 gold biscuits weighing 21.45 Kgs. valued at Rs. 1.09 crores found concealed in the dry ice compartment of two food trollies of Lufthansa airlines flight LH 760 which arrived on 9.7.1996 from Frankfurt. Investigations have revealed that seized gold was attempted to be smuggled by two passengers in collusion with four staff members of a flight catering unit. All the accused persons have been arrested.

The details of seizure of gold and the number of persons arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Quantity (In Kgs)	Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Persons Arrested
1993-94	64.459	287.45	33
1994-95	54.619	255.11	25
1995-96	105.830	512.60	27
1996-97 (upto 30.6.96)	30.000	158.88	4

The details of persons prosecuted in connection with smuggling of gold through the Indira Gandhi International Airport and status of prosecution are as follows :

Year	No. of Persons Prosecuted	Status of Prosecution		
		Evidence Stage	Decided	Absconding
1993-94	34	28	5	1
1994-95	19	15	3	1
1995-96	27	27	-	-
1996-97 (upto 30.6.96)	3	3	-	-

[Translation]

Foreign Investment by NRIs

*333. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of foreign investment made by the non-resident Indians during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the investments made in the backward areas out of the above investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The investment proposals from the Non-Resident Indians approved during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)

1993	*1994*	*1995*
3249.92	5123.41	6416.06

(b) Details of investments made by the NRIs in backward areas are not centrally maintained.

[English]

Deposits Attracting Scheme of Banks

*334. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India or any other public sector bank propose to evolve a scheme to compete with the non-banking financial companies in the matter of attracting deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the functioning of non-banking financial companies are affecting adversely the functioning of nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?